

that focused on economic development and crime reduction, while also advocating for the development of community centers and parks. In 1971, Mr. White founded the Willard Housing Organization, one of the first groups in Minneapolis that sought government loans to repair and rehabilitate the impoverished areas of Minneapolis.

His passion, combined with experience he gained as a community activist, led Mr. White to enter the political arena, where he became the first African American elected to the city council of Minneapolis in 1979. During the ten years Mr. White served on the Minneapolis City Council where he was the chair of the Government Operations Committee and Vice Chair of the Minneapolis Community Development Agency.

Mr. White continued to support his community until he passed away on July 14, 1993. Mr. White is survived by his wife of nearly forty years, Mrs. Javanese White, their daughter Javoni, son Perri and granddaughter Kapria.

Mr. White dedicated over fifty years of his life to community activism. He served on the board of nearly thirty economic and community development programs, and left behind a legacy of uplifting his community. Throughout his life, Mr. White was viewed as a connector, someone who could take ideas to improve the communities of Minneapolis and put those ideas into action. It is only fitting today the Van White Memorial Bridge connects North Minneapolis to downtown Minneapolis in his honor. I urge the citizens of the United States to follow in the steps of Van White, and find ways to serve and improve their own communities.

I truly appreciate everything Mr. White did for Minneapolis, and I thank him and his family for their dedication and service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DORA FINLEY

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the contributions of Mrs. Dora Finley, a native of Mobile, Alabama, who recently passed away at the age of 59. During her lifetime, Dora Finley inspired Mobile to recognize its rich heritage while moving the community to remember the vital lessons of the past.

At an early age, Mrs. Finley demonstrated a passion for social issues and an uncommon ability to lead. A graduate of Mobile's Bishop Toolen School for Girls in 1970, Mrs. Finley created the United Student Action Movement while still a high school junior. As head of the Movement, she dedicated herself to addressing issues confronting African-American youth.

Mrs. Finley learned the value of hard work in childhood when she helped sell candy in the family drugstore. She later taught mathematics at John L. Leflore High School before becoming a Loan Officer at Commonwealth National Bank. After earning a Masters' Degree in Business Administration from Spring Hill College, she embarked on a 25 year career in Managerial Logistics with Scott Paper Company/Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

Her tenacity to see any job through to completion combined with her dedication to pro-

moting a greater awareness of African-American history in her hometown made her uniquely qualified to assume the one role for which she is best known—the creator of the Mobile African-American Heritage Trail. The Heritage Trail's primary objective is to share Mobile's multicultural legacy from the earliest arrival of African-Americans to the end of segregation. Throughout Mobile County there have been 40 historic markers established by the trail.

City Councilman William Carroll personally credited Mrs. Finley with the creation of the Heritage Trail: "Without Dora, the African-American Heritage Trail would have never been."

Finley also assisted in the making of the 2008 Mobile Mardi Gras documentary "The Order of Myths," produced and directed by Margaret Brown. The film highlights the history of Mobile's black and white mystical societies and the complex interaction between the two.

One of her last projects was raising money to restore the Cook's House at Oakleigh Mansion. The Cook's House is slated to become the first house museum in Mobile dedicated to the African-American experience, offering a historically-accurate accounting of the families that once worked at Oakleigh.

Mr. Speaker, Dora Finley has been described as one of Mobile's strongest advocates of historic preservation and a tireless advocate for equality. Without a doubt, her loss is one that is shared by our entire community.

On behalf of the people of Mobile, I offer my heartfelt condolences to her daughter, Nicole; her mother, Joycelyn Franklin Finley; brothers James and Karlos; sister Joycelyn; and many other family and friends. You are all in our thoughts and prayers.

IN HONOR OF DR. I.L. MULLINS, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an inspiring community leader and beloved Pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, Dr. I.L. Mullins, Sr. Sadly, Dr. Mullins passed away on Wednesday, July 18, 2012. His passing leaves a tremendous void in the hearts of his family, friends and the Thomasville, Georgia community.

On Thursday, July 26, 2012, a Musical Memorial Service will be held in honor of Dr. Mullins at First Missionary Baptist Church. On Friday, July 27, 2012, a funeral service will be held at First Baptist Church in Thomasville, Georgia.

Dr. Mullins was born on August 26, 1930, and grew up in Chattanooga, Tennessee. He served in the United States Air Force during the Korean War in the 1950s.

Over the course of his lifetime, Dr. Mullins admirably mastered the balance of his civic responsibilities with his academic accomplishments and religious commitments. After he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in 1957, he went on to obtain his Masters of Divinity from the Interdenominational Theological Center & Gammon Theological Seminary in 1960. In 1979, Dr. Mullins

received his Doctor of Divinity degree from Faith College in Birmingham, Alabama.

A fierce believer in equality and justice for all, Dr. Mullins was not only a profound theologian but also a strong civic leader. He marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s and was instrumental in organizing the local Thomasville branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, NAACP. Additionally, Dr. Mullins served effectively as Thomas County Commissioner for five-terms that spanned over two decades.

Ordained as a minister on December 29, 1957, Dr. Mullins has served as the Pastor of the First Missionary Baptist Church since 1961 and was honored by the church for 50 years of dedicated pastoral service last year in a Golden Jubilee Extravaganza.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that I will always remember about Dr. Mullins is his dedication to helping others and his passion for promoting equality and peace among individuals from different walks of life. A man of integrity and high moral values, his understanding, compassion and kindness made him a guiding light within the community.

On a personal note, I have been truly blessed by Dr. Mullins' warm friendship and support and I am deeply grateful for his counsel and advice as well as for being a fountain of inspiration for me over the last several years. His motto was, "God's Preachers give their hearers fruit, not flowers." Indeed, Dr. Mullins gave his congregation and all those who have sought his counsel the fruit of the Word to satiate and sustain them throughout the journey of life.

Mr. Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the almost 700,000 people in the 2nd Congressional District of Georgia, would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Dr. Mullins' wife the former Josephine Lovejoy Ferrell, their children, grandchildren and the members of First Missionary Baptist Church during this difficult time. May they be consoled and comforted by their abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DONNA F. EDWARDS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Ms. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes in the House Tuesday afternoon (July 24th), due to testifying before the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes 502 (the motion on ordering the previous question on H. Res. 738) and 503 (H. Res. 738, the rule providing for consideration of both H.R. 4078 and H.R. 6082).

2012 OLYMPIC GAMES

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, over two thousand years ago, the